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**OURSELVES**









# OURSELVES

(Baxter Family)

By  
GARRETT BAXTER

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## CHAPTER I.

### ANCESTORS.

Our ancestral lines include the venerable Scottish stock. Of course it is not possible to say whether we can claim descent from the remote Celtic branch of the native Scotch, from the Scotch-Irish stock, or from Saxon stock. We can claim Scotland as the home of our old world ancestors, and feel very well satisfied with the claim. Scotland is the home of some of the finest types of human character.

To trace the line or lines of descent from the pioneers who landed on these American shores, is to look to the south-eastern part of this great country of ours. For we find the name of Dey, as well as the name of Baxter, old names in the grand old state of North Car-

olina.

But it may be said that the Dey family can be traced back to Derrick Dey, one of the earliest settlers of New York, and for whose name there is a street in New York city, Dey street.

It is interesting to inquire into the reasons that led our forbears to select the country life of Eastern North Carolina for their homes and fortunes. Probably they found in the agreeable climate and beautiful scenery a very congenial welcome. The climate is not very cold in the winter nor very warm in the summer. In the spring and fall it is delightful. And it is beautiful. In the month of December I have stood on the Eastern elevation of Church island, looking eastwardly toward the silvery sand beach that separates the Atlantic from Currituck sound. The placid sheet of water, dotted with islands, decked with swans here and there, animated with great flocks of wild ducks, presented a picture which few localities



can excel.

And we cannot be surprised if we learn that they were partly influenced by the charms of wealth and culture, seeing that the soil is rich and that labor is ample to make it yield ample results. This an intelligent person could see, an appreciative person could measure, and an active person could accept. It was a period of slavery. Intelligent utilization of land and labor could not fail to make the climate tell. Would this not result in advantage to all.

That Currituck county, North Carolina, was a good place to live in, and a fit home for active men, is shown by the fact that most of the land owners were prosperous, cultured, and influential men. An uncle, Joshua Baxter, owned slaves, cultivated a large plantation, and held a public office. Thomas R. Ballentine, an uncle of my mother, owned many slaves, was the cultivator of a fine plantation, and earned for himself considerable wealth. Benjamin Dey, the father of my mother, cultivated

many acres of land, operated a large lumber mill, and was one of the highly respected men of the county. I could mention other names, but a sufficient number is given to show what a suitable country and proper conditions of labor can effect.

And a system of balanced wealth production that conserved the wealth produced, there remained the means of support for the aspirations and social activities of the producers. The economic system supported the social system. The family of Jarvis, of Jarvisburg, located between Point Hardor and Currituck Court House, is the name of a prominent family from which the wife of Joshua Baxter came. This family gave the Old North State a governor and statesman. Supported by a conserving economic system, this country family achieved a prominence that cannot now be attained in the country. The surplus and the capital of the country is now absorbed by capitalism.

The facts prove that conditions helped pro-

gress. Thomas R. Ballentine, brother of my grandmother, Dey, wished to gain wealth. Instead of becoming a merchant, he became a cultivator of the soil. With efficient management, land and labor produced a surplus. In effecting progress, he purchased a large plantation and numbers of slaves. Surplus was returned to the operations of the plantation and operating capital was increased. There was an accumulation of wealth from land tillage.

The conditions that made it possible to see this progress no longer existing, there is no longer the evidence of such prosperity in the county of Currituck. The Dey family, the Baxter family, the Halstead family, the Ballentines, moved away after the civil war.

A cousin, Benjamin B. Halstead, finding opportunity in neither city nor country, associated himself with a manufacturing establishment, and made wealth by so doing. Thomas R. Ballentine moved to Norfolk county, but he



remained a farmer.

Yet the county of Currituck, around the sound is still beautiful, and many from farther north make it the scene of their vacation. For this county is a paradise of the huntsman. On this account, a relation of my mother, Elizabeth Hatfield, in 1883, sold Crow Island to William Minst Jr., of Boston Massachusetts, for the sum of \$24,700.00. The gentlemen who now own this island have adopted it to the sportsman's use, and have changed the name to Swan Island.

## CHAPTER II.

### THE TREE.

It may not be so interesting to so many as it is to us to make an account of the personality of those who are ones relations. With this in view, I proceed to give the relationship and to describe the personality of those appearing to be relevant to this interest.

To present a good example of ease and composure, I advance the name of Joshua Baxter, my father's father. Clean shaven, with hair falling just below the ears, and around five feet in height, moving and speaking quietly, yet firmly, he was always impressive. He possessed the delicate art of making friends and holding them. By looks and expression he could carry sentiment with him and succeed

when other elements of personality failed.

Joshua Baxter married Sarah Jarvis, whose first cousin, Thomas F. Jarvis, was governor of the state of North Carolina. And he had a very prominent third cousin, Dr. Oscar Baxter. His brothers were, Thomas F. Baxter, Hilliard Baxter, and a half brother, Dr. Joseph Baxter, who married Kate Gilman. Two of Thomas F. Baxter's children married the same minister, the Rev. Ambrose Burfoot, the first wife dying while young. Their children are Dr. A. M. Burfoot, Fentress, Norfolk county, Virginia, and Ambrose W. Burfoot, of Norfolk, Virginia.

The descendents of Joshua Baxter and Sarah Baxter, are: Benjamin F. Baxter, Joshua J., Elizabeth, Mary, Jerome, and William J. Baxter.

Benjamin F. Baxter was a well proportioned man, weighing something like one hundred and seventy five pounds. His face was full and his forehead was high. He walked with a limp, due to a wound received during the civil war.



He married a daughter of Andrew L. Hill, who held the office of Norfolk city treasurer.

Jerome Baxter was the most refined of these children. He was very polite, and disliked the rude and ugly. He was a gentleman of pleasing manners and intelligent conversation, of sound sense and executive ability. His habits were regular and his methods were ethical. He offended no one nor any moral code. He, too, married a daughter of Andrew L. Hill.

Mary Baxter was a calm, gentle, congenial woman. Few could display more sincere friendships. To be a fine citizen of the country, a delightful citizen of the city, and dignified in success, is the clear temper of a noble character.

Mary Baxter married James R. Halstead, a splendid type of the country gentleman. Their children are these: B. B. Halstead, P. B. Halstead, W. J. Halstead, J. W. Halstead.

If I am asked which of these has the best physical proportion, I will have to give the credit to B. B. Halstead; for he stands around

five and a half feet, and weighs about one hundred and fifty pounds. He has a well proportioned head. His complexion is ruddy and his face without beard. His temperament is steady and uniform; his decisions firm and unerring. He is an executive of no mean quality, and a man of vision and progress.

J. W. Halstead is larger, physically, than B. B. Halstead. He is somewhat taller, and weighs much more. He is robust and very healthy. His hair is red and his complexion ruddy. He is of a sociable disposition and much of a churchman. But he is just and not unreasonable.

Elizabeth Baxter married Dr. Whitehall, of Indiana. They have a son living at Attica, on the Wabash, whose name is Lee Whitehall. He is a lawyer, and city attorney for his home town.

William J. Baxter was about five and a half feet tall and weighed around one hundred and sixty pounds. His forehead was high and his



head was well proportioned. His judgment was good. He never spoke hastily, and what he said was prudent and convincing. His ideas were above the ordinary, and his opinions above the commonplace. His manner was a personality; and this personality made him many personal attachments. He made friends, and friends made him a politician. He was more a politician than a business man. He may have erred in making so much of politics, but it came as second nature to take an interest in everything that came along in such a form. He found in politics the enthusiasm that stirred to activity; and the road of politics was always well traveled.

William J. Baxter married Mary L. Dey, a daughter of Benjamin Dey. She is one of the best of women; self-denying, dutiful sympathetic, and devoted.

The children of William J. Baxter and Mary L. Baxter, are the following: Eva A. Baxter, Garrett Baxter, Jerome Baxter, William J. Bax-

ter, and Kathrine Baxter.

Eva A Baxter was born in Princessanne county, Virginia, on the 19, day of September, in the year 1869. She died on the 18, day of April, 1890. in the city of Norfolk, Virginia. She was fair in complexion, and possessed an affectionate countenance. An active member of of the Methodist church, she won the love and affection of all by her unselfish devotion to its varied interests. In veneration of its cause, she devoted much of her time to aiding those whom fortune had not blessed, that the claims of mercy may be satisfied. If by duty to the cause of the good we may read the charms of character, we may read in this character the perfection of womanly loveliness.

Garrett Baxter was born in the county of Princessanne, Virginia. He is five and one half feet in height. slender, and weighs one hundred and sixty pounds. He is clean shaven, and has black hair. In habits he is regular, and in disposition he is kind. He believes in fairness,

expects fairness from others.

Jerome Baxter was born in Princessanne county, Virginia, the fifth day of November, 1871, and died of pneumonia, in the city of Norfolk, Virginia, the third day of June 1894. He was a very active and intelligent young man.

W. J. Baxter, II, was born the 18, day of January, in the year 1874. He is slender in stature and wiry in build. He is bullet faced and keen of intellect. And he is of a serious disposition.

Kathrine Baxter was born in the county of Norfolk, Virginia, the 18, day February, 1877. She is endowed with the usual good sense of persons born in the month of February. She is prudent and intelligent. She married J. R. M. Robertson, a very fine man.

A grandmother being a member of the Balentine family, and a grandfather being a member of the Dey family, I proceed next to trace these two families.



Thomas Ballentine married Barbary Williams, and their children were Thomas R. Ballentine, Mary Ballentine, Henry Ballentine, David Ballentine, Sarah Ballentine.

Along here I will mention that Barbary Williams is the sister of Elizabeth Williams, who married Captain Hatfield, the owner of Crow Island, before mentioned, as well as much other property.

Thomas R. Ballentine, my mother's uncle, was clean shaven, prominent forehead and strong mind. He was without schooling yet he possessed a high degree of culture; without wealth in youth, yet wealthy in age; without membership in a church, yet moral and a friend of religion. The force of his will carried him to his objective. He was the founder of his own good fortune and intellectual achievements, and left as evidence of this the memorial in the city of Norfolk, Virginia known as the Mary R. Ballentine Home for the Aged, in memory of his wife, who was Mary E. Hughes.

of Currituck county, North Carolina.

Mary Ballentine became the wife of Benjamin Dey. She possessed many of the traits and characteristics of her brother, Thomas R. Ballentine. She was a woman excellent in judgment, and a good manager.

The father of Benjamin Dey bore the name of Benjamin Dey. The line of descent, I understand, can be traced, as before mentioned, to the early settlers of New York. Benjamin Dey married Susan Guthrie. The following are of the children born to them: Benjamin Dey, James Dey, Lewis Dey, Joseph C. Dey, William Dey.

Benjamin Dey was a man of medium stature, ruddy complexion, clean shaven. He was intellectual, well trained and moral. He was a gentleman, and his taste and manners supplied the proof. One instance will show the effects of this character. A friend of his, who had been a visitor for many years, on one of his visits, happened to speak lightly of a lady,

Turning quickly to the offender, Benjamin Dey exclaimed: "Sir, you have said what you have said; I want to hear you no more. Never darken my door again."

The children of Benjamin Dey and Mary Dey are: Alice, Mary, Benjamin, William, Elizabeth, Stella.

Mary Dey is Mary L. Baxter, my mother. Alice Dey is Alice White, mother of Judge Benjamin Dey White. Benjamin Dey is the father of John Dey, recently a member of of the state legislature, and Thomas Dey. William Dey is the father of Mrs. Fred C. Abbott and John Dey. Stella Dey is Stella Ferebee. Her children are Frank Ferebee and Mary Edmonds. Elizabeth Dey is Elizabeth Moore. Her children are J. Dey Moore, Stella James, Louise Luxford, she having married Dr. Luxford, of Richmond, Virginia. And J. Dey Moore married a niece of Kate Bosher, of the same city.

Alice White is one of those strong willed



sensible women who seldom fail in anything. She is exceptionally intelligent, and is endowed with a fine sense of the fitness of things. She is slender. Her eyes are black.

Judge White is well rounded in physique, for his weight is around one hundred and sixty pounds, and his height around five and one half feet. His head is large and his face clean-shaven. He has a fine judicial mind. His opinions are respected, and not often reversed.

Joseph C. Dey married Betsy Williams, and their son was Apollis O. Dey. He died November 25, 1933, at the age of 92. He left five children; Mrs. A. B. Williams, Virginia Beach. Mrs. J. C. Jones, Jacksonville, Florida. Mrs. A. L. Doney, Charlotte, N. C. Mrs. F. B. Carpenter, Altamont, N. Y. Joseph C. Dey, Philadelphia.

Lewis Dey's children were Waddy Dey; Charley Dey; Carrie Dey; Lewis Dey; William Dey. Waddy Dey left a son named Waddy Dey. He married a Miss. Willings, of Philadelphia.

He was, a few years ago, Judge of the Domestic Relations Court, of the city of Norfolk. The son of William Dey was named William Dey, who, for a long time, was Commissioner of the Revenue, of the city of Norfolk.

The children of William Dey, brother of Benjamin Dey and Lewis Dey, are: George W. Dey; Tiberius; Fannie; Emma; Margaret; Walter; James Dey.

Emma Dey married Col. C. A. Nash. Margaret Dey married Nathaniel Burrus. Fannie Dey married Charles Wortham, of Richmond. James Dey married a daughter of General A. P. Hill. This James Dey is the father of James Dey, of Norfolk. A son of George W. Dey is a professor in the University of North Carolina.



## CHAPTER III.

### PLANTATIONS.

It is not inconsistent to say that comfort and culture are worthy objects of our attention. And certainly the means to these ends cannot be regarded as inconsistent if they include means that are productive of such worthy ends, and fall in line with the customs and sanctions of society. It is only when we become selfish, and strive to gain selfish ends, that the means are abused and sanctions are violated.

The spirit that dominated the plantation system of the slave era was comfort and culture. The economic system that produced according to the wellbeing of all could not fail to prove attractive as a country life. It was therefore natural, and logical, that intelligent men should

purchase plantations, gather the usual colored help around him, and settle down to a life that was natural to the climate. There is the triune of happiness.

Benjamin Dey cultivated a large plantation and made a community life of happiness for those who shared in the labor and benefits of the place. There were forty or more slaves, and they were coordinated into a sytem which proved its value. Each knew what to do, what was expected and what to expect.

With cultivating the soil, storing crops, and taking care of stock, labor was never idle. It was very much engaged. The production of large quantities of corn to feed to stock, kept labor active in raising the product as well as caring for stock during the winter months. And this was not all. A large lumber mill on the plantation requird attention. There was the timber; why not utilize it? He did, and the country round began to resemble a village.

Some of the choicest material was sent from

this much needed plant. Contracts came from every direction for the products. So efficient was the plant that it was seized and operated during the civil war by the invading forces. But it was by the exercise of force that this was done, and by the violation of natural justice that compensation was never returned. The fact of private property taken for public use cannot make a war with those whose rights it is trying to wrest from them in the name of justice, a just actor without justice.

The slaves that were lost by reason of this war were loyal, and devoted to their duties. They would rise early every morning and start the day with a song and a push. The stock would be fed and the cows would be milked so that field work could begin in the cool of the morning.

And a plentiful garden was always maintained, which supplied an abundance of all kinds of fresh vegetables and good health.

This was general. Joshua Baxter, as well as



Benjamin Dey supported their slaves and their families in great comfort. The slave enjoyed advantages which they do not enjoy today. And this was in Currituck county, North Carolina, at a time when travel and communication were intermittent and slow.

In merchandising, the coordination of the elements of production is a very simple thing. Purchasing a stock of goods and displaying it to the greatest advantage, is the chief operation of the merchant. He awaits results. But can any one imagine that the land tiller could purchase a few acres and a few slaves and then sit down to watch for results? If he were to sit down, the tiller would have no results to show for his sitting. The husbandman obtains results not only at the cost of ease and effort but also at the cost of adverse conditions of weather.

The management that coordinates the elements of production in the tillage of the soil, so as to effect margins over operations, is more than management in the field of merchandising

because it overcomes more.

Taking the conditions into consideration, we can appreciate the activities of Thomas R. Ballentine. He did not merely venture into the noblest field of human industry; he engaged in it with heart and soul. He toiled in and he thought in as a thorough devotee to his cause. By sunlight and by moonlight, the firm and unvarying will moved forward.

He began on the resources of a small loan and worked it industriously. He managed his work and made it yield results. He saved what he made and wisely utilized that. The elements joined hands with wisdom and effected something to think about: two hundred slaves and several plantations in fee.

Here is one man so coordinating the activities of many men and several large farms as to make all move in a definite course. The work was not only separate; it was apportioned. The definite part which each was to take not only saved time but made the effects of each def-

inite and fixed.

Here is an instance of many men in activities of varied kinds so planned and executed by one man as to effect the purpose and ends of the design and plans.

And he managed the products so as to effect the best returns to his activities. The marketing of stock or of crops, depended upon the prevailing price of either. If crops were low, and stock was high, crops would be fed to fatten stock for market. If crop prices were high, the crops would be marketed, and the stock would be left in only normal condition. But in case the crops were sent to market, the stock on the farm would not be neglected. Sometimes it was profitable to market most of the crops produced and purchase stock feed of less value. Sometimes it was profitable to sell the stock, buy other, less conditioned stock, and feed the products to that. In any case, the policy pursued was to market the values that would return the most revenue.



It was an interesting thing to see the large flocks of sheep, grazing in ample pastures; to witness the movements of herds of pedigree, mouse colored hogs, of well fed cattle, of well conditioned horses and mules, all centered upon one plantation, and moving with the harmony of that country life.

Horses and mules in numbers were then necessary. There were no machines of much consequence with which to till the soil. For the most part, it was a matter of individual effort. And with every five individuals there was a pair of mules or horses for work. That, alone, meant an activity for consumption as well as for revenue; a dynamic system of consumption and production, with a surplus for capital. There were three or four times as many hogs as slaves, as many sheep as both and just as many head of cattle, and more than enough feed for all, with products to be sent to the market, and good prices for what was sent, because the right products were sent at the right time.

The determination to go forward is observed in the evidence of progress. Progress is not good luck. Instead, it is the wisdom of activity and the activity of wisdom. While folly entertains pleasure, wisdom entertains means to ends. The one plays his game and sits down to ease; the other plays his game and sits down to think. He is trying to attain his ends; pleasure has no other ends than immediate activity.

The world is full of pleasure. When we see one denying himself of pleasure, and bending his energies to the achievement of worthy ends, we must say that here is due a share of praise.

Thomas R. Ballentine made wealth not by the manipulation of stocks and bonds, but by making the production of things yield a surplus over consumption. During the era before the civil war, the cost of production in the country, and the returns on the products, from the city, made it possible to advance the interests of the country. The South was not industrialized, and no adverse interests existed to



absorb the proper margin that is the farmers own.

Men took pride in what they did, during those days, because what they did was largely for the benefit of all. What they did left them the means of supporting consistent leisure; some to enjoy themselves, as the slaves; some for culture, as the landlords. But the leisure of the slaves was also spent, in part, in taking care of living quarters, and, in part, in making extras for themselves, from which they derived much revenue.

But this country system was too flourishing. It attracted the cupidity of the North; and a war came along and growled and knocked the foundation from the system.

This meant great losses. For instance, the loss to T. R. Ballentine, consisted of something like two hundred slaves, valued at around fifteen hundred dollars each. And, like others, he lost the time that was spent in the field of war.

The plantation system of the South is no more. It will be no more so long as the capitalism of the North dominates the economic life of the people. The homesteads that were full of life, of activity, of happiness, culture, are the scenes of despair, of economic destruction, as devastating, as calamitous, as the civil war.

## CHAPTER IV.

### SLAVES.

In the coordination of the means of production, before the civil war, the colored race, in the cultivation of the soil, played no small part. Where the guiding hand of skill coordinated the elements of production, this labor fared well in the results. When the laborer is made to see his best interest in the best interest of the master, and this is made to appear in the contrast of conditions, and not in oppressions, then the master has demonstrated the wisdom of his activities and the value of his services to society.

Good sense, good nature, honesty in relations, will make it always easy to apply efficient methods in the operations of production and

distribution. Without this, the only alternative is machines. But machines do not consume. They are primarily for the benefit of the master.

The likes and dislikes of the slaves were not used to oppress. The want would be granted if the conditions and circumstances warranted. In this respect, the management of slaves by Thomas R. Ballentine, as well as by Benjamin Dey, was almost perfect. They would remove dislikes by either substituting something else or by showing the dislike was only imaginary.

For this reason, the slaves of both Thomas R. Ballentine and of Benjamin Dey, were always willing workers. These slaves never shirked their duty. They accepted it as a condition of the agreeable benefits received. They enjoyed all the comforts and conveniencies that could reasonably be expected. They could see elsewhere conveniencies of less extent, and could not fail to appreciate what they enjoyed; com-



modious living quarters, arranged so as to form community life. The buildings were ample in size, and were always maintained in a healthy condition. Food of sufficient quantity and quality was always supplied. The slaves enjoyed life with work because they received enough to support a sound body and work enough to promote health and happiness. They were neither over-worked, over-fed, nor over-leisured.

And their leisure was spent judiciously. In her girlhood days spent on Crow Island, my mother saw much of the thirty five slaves owned by Captain Hatfield. She tells of traits not observed today, of intelligence, of politeness, of sympathy, of interest in music, stories, games.

She tells of one old faithful, Uncle Dan Hatfield, who was very religious; and of another, Aunt Honor, who could out-cuss the most cussed. One day things went wrong with Aunt Honor. She turned the King's English upside down. Uncle Dan heard. He went out to a nearby shed to pray: "O Lawd, the next time



Aunt Honor cusses, let a shower of bricks fall upon her head. Aunt Honor gathered every brickbat in sight, and began pouring them upon the shed from which emanated so much devotion. The devotee to prayer took to his feet and did not stop running until he ran into the sound.

The slaves could make the fiddle talk. The banjo, and "spirtuals" were never heard, at least, on Crow Island. Nor were those silly dialogues, which we frequently hear today. They loved the old fashion songs; Home Sweet Home, Annie Laurie, In the Gloaming, and a host of others of that kind, including the beautiful hymns.

It seems to me that this choice of songs indicates the natural artistic taste of the colored race for things musical. I recently heard a class singing hymns at Whaleyville. The different shades of tone expressed the meaning and spirit of every song. Not one was drowned with sound.

And the slaves would put on their best and

go to church. Seats were reserved for them in the white churches, and they were always well filled. And they were given right much to visiting. To see them in their best clothes and their best manners was a sight in the world.

But this was all in the country. The city was no place for the system. In fact, there were no cities of any consequence. The country population was larger than the urban population.

The country is the natural home of the colored race. They came from a warm climate to the warm climate of the south of America, and thrived upon the plantations directed by the white race. In fact, the combination of labor and management that so effectively utilizes the resources of the country as to create wealth is a matter of great significance. The effect of hurdling in cities, where they linger, in distress and poverty, proves that the real home of the colored race is the country. It was the country that supplied the field for such effective activities during the period before the civil war as

made them happy and contented. It was the country that made them liked by the white race, and made them follow their habits and customs more than they do today. Then they followed the habits and customs of the country gentleman.



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## CHAPTER V.

### INDUSTRY.

It is not an easy matter to discharge the duties of successful industry. To be successful, one must so manage affairs as to effect margins over costs of operations. It is not like the spending of money by government and then raising the money by taxation. This matter of creating wealth means more than that. It means executive ability. Knowledge may help, but the qualifications essential to the creation of wealth in the field of industry come from nature. They are the qualifications of nature.

An uncle of my mother, William Dey, not only produced, he produced in such a manner as to create wealth. He settled in Norfolk, Virginia, near the time his brother, Benjamin Dey,



settled in Currituck county, North Carolina. At that time, the city of Norfolk had a population of something like fifteen thousand inhabitants. There were no regular systems of water supply and of sanitation. In consequence, the industry of the place advanced slowly. And what advance was made, came from the people of the South. William Dey opened a tailoring establishment in the city of Norfolk, at a time when the citizens of the city had to go elsewhere to purchase decent clothing.

By supplying the people of Norfolk with what they wanted, he displayed vision, by doing this in a way that produced wealth, he displayed executive ability. It was not long before he filled another want of the city by opening a first class drug store. And the same abilities made this business also successful. Then he opened a book store, and this, too, was a success. Then he added land tillage, and this proved successful. Slaves, land, equipment, were synchronized into a complete system, and wealth was added to

wealth, the usual reward of executive ability. When he died, William Dey was a wealthy man.

But another did not die so well supplied with the materials of this world. Although the volume of trade was large, and the revenues were admirable, yet wealth was not accumulated. It did not accumulate because surplus gains were diverted from the capital of business to the pleasures of society. Soon after the close of the civil war, Benjamin F. Baxter located in the city of Norfolk, Virginia, and established himself in the wholesale tobacco business. The business grew rapidly, and wealth began to accumulate. But when wealth made headway, social demands also made headway; and the satisfaction of these demands ignored the measure of revenue. Instead of making progress, the business remained one thing, until one of the worst ring gangs that ever infested a city gained control of both the business and the politics of the place; when the business began to decline. This is an example of the evil effects

of politics in business.

In proportion to the decline of his business, the pride of Benjamin F. Baxter increased; not that he was overbearing in manners, but that he loved to boast of the business he did not do and of the friends he did not have, a trait of character that is not very agreeable.

Jerome Baxter, a brother of Benjamin F. Baxter, and associated with him for some time, left the city of Norfolk to set up in the same kind of business in the growing city of Memphis, Tennessee. A splendid opportunity awaited him; and he made the most of it. The field was new and expansive, and every part of it was well covered. The well managed activities of the enterprise yielded wealth; and wealth increased industry. The stable habits of prudence made uniformity and regularity of direction, and wealth followed as a logical consequence. But he retired early in life from active business, and lost much from inexperienced ventures.

A very fine example of the rise of man by



his own exertion of will is observed in the success of Benjamin B. Halstead. Nature seems to have carved a typical executive in the person of Benjamin B. Halstead. He entered the service of a manufacturing enterprise with no more than his small wages and a little schooling. He gave his undivided attention to his duties and permitted no pleasure to interfere. He maintained a healthy proportion of duty and pleasure, and found as much pleasure in duty as in recreation. Duty responded to demands.

One may render services for a long period of time, and in doing this perform the requirements of duty. Another may do the same and advance beyond the one with whom he started. The man of ability proves his resources by his facility of execution, while the man of no capacity struggles on, fortunate if he succeeds in pulling himself out of the hole into which he has worried himself. As a fact of distinction, the lesser man limits himself because the limits of improvement are in himself. An



organization of such men can take them nowhere. The superior comes along and leads them from their minor position to a position of importance. The advancing man makes out a position of wider activity, produces greater results, enforces a copious flow of relations, and creates a demand for results.

Who comes within these observations, must be qualified, and Benjamin B. Halstead is qualified. He did not merely render services; he effected results. In due time, he came to be the manager of a retail branch of the manufacturing company of his choice. In this position, he handled the business so well that he attracted the attention of the heads of the enterprise. Abilities were easily recognized, and he was soon in an important position in the main office. In due time he became the manager of the company, and a little later an officer of the corporation.

In the position of direction, Benjamin B. Halstead effected progress. He directed and guid-

ed the activities of others as easily as the parent directs the activities of the child. He managed labor and capital so as to effect margins over costs, and made additions and improvements which made for the accumulation of capital. He advanced ideas so that the best conditions of production and distribution prevailed. He concluded agreements so that the interests of the enterprise could be fully protected and advanced. He conducted the relations of agreements so that the area of activities could be expanded.

Plants in other cities and at convenient points were established, larger operations were promoted, and a greater volume of revenue was realized.

When there is progress, there is judicious means to judicious ends. It is not a matter of mere good luck. It is a matter of will and judgment.

When any one expresses his will and judgment so as to turn crude nature into wealth,

the society is the gainer. The wealth producing man makes the whole society better off. He makes possible all these arts which require the support wealth.

Another name I wish to add is that of John B. Dey. He is president of the Ballentine Realty Corporation, an extensive residential development company.

## CHAPTER VI.

### COMPARISON.

Material wealth is greatest when city and country are active. With the full activity of both land tillage and fabrication, the full harmony of relations between city and country is made out. Both produce because each demands of the other. This is in accord with nature. The illformed animal, the mistaken brute, are not less the deficiency of elements than the deformed condition of relations between city and country. The loss of one begins the injury of the other. The gain of both is the value of demands.

It must have been these considerations that enabled Thomas R. Ballentine, on the one hand, and Benjamin B. Halstead, on the other, to



make for themselves comfortable fortunes. One made his, for the most part, in the cultivation of the soil, the other, for the most part, made his in the field of manufacturing. Although executive abilities qualified for success in this particular field, yet it would have been a difficult matter for either Thomas R. Ballentine or Benjamin B. Halstead to have done so well had there been an undue economic advantage of the city over the country. To satisfy the wants of each, proper returns to each are necessary. There is no other way of effective demands. At that time, there must have prevailed between country and city that ideal of mutuality which supports the fabricator and the tiler in vigorous relations:

The manufacturing establishment of Benjamin B. Halstead concerned itself with the wants and requirements of the cultivators of the soil. The cultivators of the soil, no doubt, received proper returns from the city with which to settle obligations. Not likely either was short

changed, for the farmer as well as the manufacturer, effected convincing examples of the progress and prosperity of each. The relations between city and country were mutual. There was no undue advantage of one over the other.

Thomas R. Ballentine, in the cultivation of the soil, limited his activities to farms of large size. Instead of expanding his activities, he intensified them, and in doing this he produced more than he would had he extended them. On the other hand, Benjamin B. Halstead, in the manufacturing industry, extended his activities in both the production and distribution of products. In doing this he caused an increase in the returns to his enterprise.

It would be difficult to say whether the cultivator or the manufacturer would have achieved success had he been in the shoes of the other. It is a matter of executive ability, this rugged road of success. Thomas R. Ballentine pursued his agricultural interests in such a manner as to effect a fine revenue

from land tillage. And Benjamin B. Halstead conducted his industry in a manner that produced a revenue from manufacturing. Yet there is a difference. Benjamin B. Halstead's was a system which required skill and judgment in direction; but it did not require that skill which has to meet successfully the contingencies of adverse conditions of weather, crop failures, and flooded markets. These are contingencies which require the same management as that required of a general when he meets with a surprise, or a greater force, or what appears to be a turn in the tide of battle. No such emergencies arise in the field of manufacturing. Emergencies arise in the activities of manufacturing, but the conditions are so uniform as to be almost void of unexpected events.

There are never such contingencies as adverse weather conditions, floods, droughts, and the like, to upset the calculations of the manufacturer. The calculation of probabilities are more exact with the manufacturer than with



the cultivator of the soil. The cultivator of the soil must produce according to season; the manufacturer according to demands. The one will produce; the other may. And what one will produce will return a definite rate. What the other may produce may return an indefinite rate. The cultivator can neither tell what will be his yield nor what will be his returns. The greater fates are with the cultivator of the soil; the greater destiny with manufacturer.

Natural resources make the country, but they do not make the man. Men of courage, and will make the most of the country, men who take the field not to destroy but to increase the resources of society.

On the farm in Norfolk county, Virginia, now known as Ballentine Place, Thomas R. Ballentine reaped a harvest of forty thousand dollars in one year. While this was an exceptional year, yet his yearly average was undoubt-



edly as large as that of most manufacturers.

The general run of manufactures will do better than the general run of cultivators. When a cultivator holds his own with the manufacturers, and outstrips them in many instances, he must be an extraordinary man.

## CHAPTER VII.

### THE SOCIETY.

The economic conditions prevailing before the civil war made more for social relations than for social isolation. In fact, the society was practically individual. The economic conditions made the social conditions; made the individual sympathetic and responsive to human feelings and the amenities of common interest. The sympathies were as warm and responsive as the human heart, for they were not cooled by the cold ambitions of excessive wealth. Indeed, it was the sincerity of men that set the relations of the honorable, the true, the just. It was the character of gentlemen that set the foundations of society.

Whatever may be the notions of liberty, one

thing is certain, it is never realized in the cold ambitions of industrialism. It requires the sympathies of the true and the just, the mutual spirit of the gentleman, to support liberty.

This society, before the civil war, was a society of gentlemen. No one failed to treat any one with less than courtesy, because no one wished to be regarded as less than a gentleman. No one would injure another in any way because that invaded the amenities of the gentleman.

And while there were cares, demanding the attention of the landlords, and duties to be performed by the slaves, no one was so slavish that he forgot the amenities of relations. The landlord and the slave observed these amenities, and the relations between them were in consequence harmonious.

It was never a matter of force, with those mentioned in these pages, in relations with the slave. It was a matter of courtesy and understanding.



The society was convivial, not provincial. Landlords had leisure; and they employed this leisure in a well balanced, respectable manner. While they could afford acquaintances in large numbers, they did not entertain in large numbers. Social festivities, except in one or two instances, were never permitted to encroach upon the family income. There was no splendor of equipment with the comforts and conveniencies; no undue exhibit of servants in domestic service. A few exceptions to this statement existed. My mother tells of a cousin who had one slave at his call to hand him refreshments, and another to stand by him with a bunch of pea fowl feathers to keep the flies away.

Social visiting was extensive. The visiting of friends, in communities less than villages, enlivens the spirit and broadens the vision of life. And what takes the ugliness out of the human heart, and makes men gentle, was the devotion to the church. There was extensive church



going because the people had been raised as christians. The slaves also were devotees. On Crow Island, they would get religion and shout. Elizabeth Hatfield would tell them to go down to the lower end of the island when holding meetings so as to go overboard when shouting. "Mars, you ought to be ashamed of yourself," they exclaimed.

Political activity is something a Southerner likes. Life is not all dollars with him. And leisure, before the war, gave him the time for attention to things political. But they were rational in the proportioning of time to politics. They permitted neither private nor public affairs to encroach upon each other.

But some of those mentioned herein, paid little attention to politics. Benjamin Dey, a grandfather, was nether much of a visitor nor much of a politician. He was too fond of home life to spend much time in politics. On the other hand, Joshua Baxter, a grandfather,

was very much devoted to these contacts, for he gave much of his time to friendships, joviality, and politics,

Most of those who resided around Currituck Court House, before the civil war, manifested a due consideration of public affairs. And this interest greatly increased with the increase of slave agitation, and the elections relating to it. The period became very exciting and very interesting. The young men in particular became very active, and all placed their faith in their interests. They were fully determined to assume the duties and responsibilities of the times. But they acted as men of wide feeling as well as men of wide experience. And there was no doubt of the ability to use personal pronouns. They could link the name of Abraham Lincoln with as many as a dozen without the name being expressed at all. For the slaves they possessed feeling; for the movement to free them by the force of arms, they possessed no feeling, because they knew that the invasion of legal rights by

force could mean nothing less than it is possible to mean; which is, taking by those who have the power, regardless of compensation.

With appreciative ideas of the times, men became much interested in a menace and a threat. If men appreciate rights and love liberty, they will heed the signs of the times and become very interested in them. To exercise these rights is very natural. There is, indeed, more in the exercise of these rights than there is in diffidence to them. For with this indifference, men come to find a hand always ready to deprive them of their rights. It manifestly becomes the duty of rational men to act when their rights are threatened. Men wise enough to perceive the dangers of the times will not let their pleasures stand in the way of those activities which the occasion require. It is then that men of virtue, of courage, come forward to do their part in the social motions of the times.

Agitation, of course, became warm, grew fev-



crish, and caused greater interest in politics, in the problems that stirred the heart and soul of men to the point of conflict.

Would such men fight. To decide this question was their right and duty; and they decided it as they saw it: a Southern point of view.



## CHAPTER VIII.

### WAR.

The spirit of the times made men recognize that the North was trying to repeat history in making an excuse to attack it by arms. The South let it be known that if injustice is attempted by one section of the country the other would not sit idle. Men who battled through adverse conditions to conquer sturdy fields of cultivation, were preparing to battle on the fields that were to be ploughed with cannon balls. They must plough the one in an effort to protect what the other has produced.

I, for one, believe that the rights of property cannot be divested without just compensation. As it is accumulated by the only valid claim under the sun, the claim of each man to what

becomes a part of his heart and mind, it is not possible to say that any expediency, whether of war or of communism, justifies divestment. If it is replied that the description I give of slavery approaches communism, I need only agree with the reply and call attention to the fact that it was built upon private property, which required compensation and not war.

Instead of preparing with products for those with whom they expect to trade, the people of the South were preparing with guns to defend against those who were preparing to invade the fields from which, by management and direction they had drawn wealth. Instead of an attire to meet a friend in greeting, they attire themselves to meet a chronic foe. Henceforth they are to engage in mutual destruction of life and property. That one side may dominate another, contending arms are to blow up fields, butcher men, invade homes, confiscate private property, and spend millions on millions of wealth.

They came; came to the spirit of the times. Seeing things with the heat of red made men move to the battle line. Of those mentioned herein Willam J. Baxter, Thomas R. Ballentine, Apollis O. Dey, Benjamin F. Baxter, James B. Dey, and the brother of Mary F. Ballentine, Isaac Hughes, David Dey, a brother of Benjamin Dey, and Thomas F. Baxter, a brother of Joshua Baxter, a grandfather, entered the conflict.

These had an interest not only in the institutions of the South but also a direct interest in property, to defend. The patriotic enthusiasm of devotion to a cause, the fine spirit of determination and purpose, marked the spirit of war.

Thomas R. Ballentine, Apollis O. Dey, David Dey, and Isaac Hughes were in the Norfolk County Rifle Patriots, Company F, Forty First Virginia Regiment. Thomas F. Baxter was First Lieutenant in the Wilson Guards, Company B, Sixty First Virginia Regiment. Benjamin F. Baxter was First Sergeant



in the same regiment.

That all those who entered the army did so with a will not merely to gratify a spirit of adventure, but to defend the interests of their homes and their industry, is fully observed in the vigor and valor of their activities. Where these men fought, the enemy met a warm reception.

The Wilson Guards. Company B, was organized in the year 1861. It was in continuous service, and was engaged in many severe contests. Both Thomas F. Baxter and Benjamin F. Baxter, received wounds during engagements. It was said of Benjamin F. Baxter that every time an engagement was expected, he would crawl into a hospital; but if he did, it was after he had received a wound that made him a difficult walker. He was promoted and transferred to the Petersburg cavalry. Thomas F. Baxter was made captain of his company. He was wounded in a battle fought on the 19, day of August, 1864, at Davis farm. The



Norfolk County Rifle Patriots, Company F, of which Thomas R. Ballentine, Apollis O. Dey, David Dey, and Isaac Hughes, were privates, was one of the largest and best companies of the confederate armies. The men who composed it were men of utmost courage and will. They always went without fear, not that they failed to appreciate dangers but that dangers could not stand in their way. Violence of war may shake the human derelict, but it did not shake the will of these men. As a matter of fact, wherever they fought the foe was beaten.

But the effects of dangers in time began to tell. Isaac Hughes was killed while fighting by the side of Apollis O. Dey, who was wounded with the same shell. Thomas R. Ballentine was wounded in the same battle the same day; the battle of Seven Pines: June the first, 1862. David Dey was detailed by order of the Secretary of war.

Thomas F. Baxter and Benjamin F. Baxter were in continuous service. The Wilson Guards

were with company B, at Warrenton Junction on the 4, day of November, 1862, and on the 7, day of the same month at Rappahannock bridge, when a brisk skirmish with the enemy took place. Rejoining the regiment on the 24, day of the same month, they marched to the scene of their next activities, Fredericksburg.

It was a fine spirit these men displayed during this distressful period. And it was not less fine in the manner they bore the burdens of loss and damage. Not only did they have to face the shock of battle; they had to bear the horrors of war made on their homes. At home the war was as severe as in the field. Motive was shown in soliciting slaves to leave their masters before the war was ended. At home the war was meaner than it was in the field, because the defense was not the same. The blue coats had no trouble in marching into the home premises, jerking a youth by the collar, and commanding him at the point of a gun to lead the way to hidden ham and bacon.



They found it a very easy matter to march into the defenseless domain of private property, force the owner of a lumber mill from his possession, assume control, and operate it to produce, and use, without compensation, what the operators wanted, in their operations against the owner's interests. That is war; and so is robbery. It was an easy matter to shoot down a valuable dog that had fastened its teeth into the neck of a horse, driven by an army officer into the home yard of a noncombatant family, and the use of vile oaths to the woman with the courage to shoot the officers horse from under him. This was war. It was an easy matter to enter the refined home of a cultured family of the city of Norfolk, rip open with swords every bed in the dwelling, and insult those protesting. It was war; and so is kidnapping. It was an easy matter upon hearing of the recent burial of a Confederate Colonel, to hasten to his grave, dig the earth from his coffin, open it, and run bayonets

through his body.

Such as the foregoing is war; and so is the conduct that falls below the standards which nature and society have combined to establish. But man, what is he; a brute here, a gentleman there. Not in the same person. He is one or the other. A little authority will make a gentleman noble, a brute a beast.

And if the North was fighting for a principle, why was not some principle followed when the blue coats were marching through territory in which supremacy had been gained. Instead of principle, there was the destruction of everything that fell into the path of the marching forces. Devastation and ruin were left to lift their ghastly forms to the clear blue sky that was anxious to help the people rebuild their ill fortunes.

The loss of slaves and property broke the spirit of many of the South. But some put their shoulders to the wheel of progress and pushed forward. Thomas R Ballentine was



one of these. But then his method was different. It was necessary to employ help, and to use more machines or implements in farming. He made rapid progress and much wealth. To farming, however, he added land transactions. He would buy run down property, improve it and sell to advantage. A farm he bought for around forty thousand dollars, for instance, was, in time, sold for around two hundred and forty thousand dollars.

## CHAPTER IX.

### POLITICS.

Politics is more just and honorable than war with arms or by economic strangulation. For in politics we advance the cause of justice without injustice; we defend our rights and claims without wrongs; we promote civilization without degrading it.

Politics was the life of society during the period just before the civil war. The people were of a class and of sufficient interest to make their associations in public life interesting and attractive. It was then a life of interests, not a life of conflicts and struggle. It was a life of proper attention to public affairs for the sake of public service and not a life of struggle for power. With no particular ambitions

for public office, but with proper interests to conserve, proper interest in politics was very natural and logical. The people ruled themselves.

The term as used then differs from the term as used now. For it is now used to mean no more than a few men so managing most men as to get control of governmental offices and hold them against any one else. As politics now appear, it is a matter of monopoly. Few men gain office, join their interests and influence, employ their resources in advertisements, urge their subordinates to solicit votes and favors, perform the duties of office so as to favor political friends, and discourage and discredit political foes. They make the office serve the interests of the office holder and not the interests of the people. Any one who is not interested in this monopoly can expect to hold office. He may run for office; but if he does, he is a tainted animal, compared to which unconvicted politicians are saints. In fact if



you are engaged in a business, practice a profession, or work at a trade, you are not entirely free to pursue your chosen calling. Though your merits may be worthy, they count for little in this monopoly of politics.

True politics is nothing of the kind. The term applies to that activity of each in public affairs which makes those affairs the concern and interest of each and all. There can be no better proof of the real meaning of politics than in the activities of men before the war. Then, Thomas F. Baxter, his brother, Joshua Baxter, the Jarvis family, the Dey family, were always interested in politics. Together with the families of Lindsay, Bray, Williams, and others, the activities of politics added to the many activities of a very active community. While Benjamin Dey was not so active as others, he was not so absorbed in private affairs as to pay no attention to political affairs. If counsel was to be given, a speech was to be made, or decisions were to be made, he was always



ready and willing to lend his time and attention. But he was never a politician in the sense of devoting very much time to public affairs as the case with Joshua Baxter.

The latter became Register of Deeds for the county of Currituck, with sufficient leisure and compensation to make himself popular. And he employed this popularity not so much to satisfy personal ambition as to advise his friends in public matters, especially the young men. He did not seek personal gain, though that would have been an easy matter. His friends tried to persuade him to run for other office, as had some of the Jarvis family, but he would never accept the invitation. He was satisfied to serve a long period as Register of Deeds, and as friendly counsel for those needing aid in matters connected with his office.

The peace and quiet of the community being disturbed by the clouds of war, caused most of the young men to manifest much interest in the politics of the times. Thomas R.

Ballentine, Benjamin F. Baxter, and others, were not mere observers of the passing events. In fact, every one, including the Jarvis family, were interested in the politics of the day. If fuel for political fire works ever existed, it existed at that time. And there was political activity. Men worked and voted as if the only chance of conserving their future lay in the proper exercise of political duty. Barbecues, speech making, and political talk, were the rounds of the day.

After the war, politics assumed a different form. Government was taken from the people and administered by force. Prejudice, hatred, licentiousness, plunder, speculation, drew a dark veil over civilization, with the flickering lights of secret organizations holding the fragments of society together. These organizations were composed of the best class of people, with the worst class that ever dominated a community as the ostensible party in power. It became a war of good and evil.

Was that ostensible power real government. It lived on fraud and tried its best to eliminate the secret organizations. That power supported its fraud by force, yet it tried to suppress the secret organizations. But the secret organizations ignored injustice in the form of government and sought justice without government, for justice is supreme. The secret orders increased in numbers and power and made it possible to maintain a fair condition of order and justice.

Later, political activity came to be social, came to be the ostensible means of supporting justice through government. The people of the South became their own public administrators. And they proceeded to root out from their governments the last vestige of former days. But there was left the influence of former evils. There is no other way of accounting for the character of such cloudy politics as existed not so many years ago.



About that time, Thomas R. Ballentine was elected to the City Council of the city of Norfolk. But he did not serve in that capacity a great length of time. The practices at that time were so ugly he became disgusted and resigned. He was asked, one night, to make a speech:

"I will," said he. "I will speak to tender my resignation. I cannot remain a member of this Council and remain a clean man."

And William J. Baxter was elected a member of the Board of Supervisors of the county of Norfolk around the same time, to remain a member of that board a short time only, due to the kindred fact that affairs, as practiced in this political unit at that time, were uninviting and discouraging. And that meant a great deal, because William J. Baxter was very fond of politics. He would rather spend a day working for the success of a political cause than in the success of a private enterprise, and in looking after the details of an election than in



looking after the details of an account. But he believed in serving those who voted and not those who voted for.

Benjamin F. Baxter gave up politics entirely. He devoted his time and attention to business pursuits.

John B. Dey may be mentioned in this connection. He owns and operates a large farm in the county of Princessanne. He has made friends, and these friends elected him to the Board of Supervisors of his county. He served in this office faithfully, so the voters of the county elected him a member of the House of Delegates. In this capacity, he has served the county well.

Prior to being made judge, Benjamin D. White was active in politics. He and his friend were instrumental in making Princessanne county wholly democratic.

Fed C. Abbott, who married a daughter of William Dey, has become interested in politics and has filled several engagements.

I have already mentioned the name of Leo Whitehall as being city attorney of his adopted city.

Although they have resided in it, none of the Baxters or the Deys have ever been active in the politics of the city of Norfolk. While it is true that William W. Dey held the office of Commissioner of the Revenue for some time, it is also true that the political clique of the city made such mean and silly attacks upon him as to disgust him with public life.

Andrew L. Hill, in whose family married Jerome Baxter and Benjamin F. Baxter, was the city treasurer of the city of Norfolk as a republican. And he made a good treasurer. That is not surprising. He was scrupulously exact, and strictly business. His personality was his character. Tall and slender, with a white crescent beard, he would pull his eye glasses down on his nose, lean forward, look you squarely in the eye, and with his New England energy, give a command that was no

sooner given than obeyed.

Thomas J. Jarvis, of Jarvisburg, North Carolina, in whose family Joshua Baxter, an uncle, married, was Governor of the state of North Carolina, and, later I think, a Minister to a South American state.

This statesman was intellectual, a pleasing conversationalist and a fine speaker.



## CHAPTER X.

### LAW.

I, for one, do not know what may be said of a college education, but I do know that a college education is not essential to success. The greatest men of America, the greatest men of ancient times, the greatest men of any life's work, have not been college men. They have been products of individual will, the institution of nature.

I have tried college life, and I could never fit myself to its senseless customs, its subordinating precedents, its mob spirit. I could learn nothing I did not know, and never knew what I did know.

I imagine if I were a student of the modern university, supported by the enormous wealth

wrung from honest toil, I would feel like education rests upon the same foundation as the intellectual life of ancient Rome, before Julius Cæsar overthrew the republic.

Then, the selfish greed that maintained its hold by intellectualism learned how to make law to suit its interests, and how to break law to satisfy its interests. There was law according to interests.

But in our times, the law springs from the requirements of society. It is accompanied with the common law of England, but with little of the civil law of Rome. It is for the most part the law of America, drawn from the customs, habits, principles, of the activities and relations of the people. It is a product of the people, and the courts and lawyers have administered it as such.

At any rate, I do not believe that Benjamin D. White owes the office of circuit judge to his college diploma. It is a credit due to the public service which he has so well discharged.

As judge of the Circuit Court of Princess-anne county, of Isle of Wight county, of the city of Portsmouth, Judge White has proven the value of our system of law. He has fully recognized and given sanction to the spirit of its foundation, justice, the mutuality that supports relations. I believe he would make justice the rule of his decisions under any circumstances. Were interests appear to conflict with justice, he would undoubtedly refuse to sit in the case. And I have noticed instances in which personal friends were overruled as unceremoniously as if they were enemies. Fidelity to the law is the support of justice though it may often seem unjust. And there are instances in which difficulty is experienced in deciding which law applies to a given state of facts. These are the instances that try the patience of men. If the decision is wrong, that will cause the court as much concern as it cause the losing party. A judge does not like to be reversed by an appellate court. If the decision stands



the court is as well satisfied as the fortunate party to the cause.

Most courts try to render exact justice, the thing for which they sit and patiently listen to more nonsense than a man of ordinary nerves can often withstand. It is to this spirit that we owe the best there is in social life. Our safety from the encroachments of the mean, the criminal, the cheat, the selfish, depends upon the honest duties of courts in finding the facts in the cases that come before them and in applying the law to those cases. It is thus that the uniformity and regularity of social relations are maintained and the happiness of the individual is supported. Were this bulwark of society taken from us, we would be left to the capricious will of the wicked element, whose only law is their barbaric wants and expediencies.

Judge White has been the arbiter of many important cases. Not only has he measured right and equity in his own court, but he has

by executive appointment, sat in other courts, in which important cases were set. Some of these cases attracted wide attention and won praise for the participants.

It is not likely that the law would be in so much demand if every one would love his neighbor as himself. Some love themselves alone; some love their neighbor more than themselves, but few love the justice that makes them wise. It is the sense of justice that inspires the law. Injustice here meets justice and leaves the love of man for social relations.

I have been interested in cases in which justice has been evenly balanced. Presumptuous clients have been disappointed, but justice has been well done.

The law is an interesting profession. There is opportunity in it for the diligence of interest. If one devotes proper attention to it, he is likely to succeed. It is a jealous profession. Cicero, the great Roman orator, suffered much from the jealousies of Roman lawyers, because he

used the profession only as a means of supporting his public aspirations. But with us, most of the important public offices are filled by lawyers.

Louis James, the son of a daughter of Elizabeth Moore, is a recent graduate in law. He is very intelligent and is very interested in his work. But he had hardly broken through the eggshell before he began chirping politics.

Lee Whitehall, of Indiana, is a very intelligent and ambitious lawyer. He, too, strayed into politics and is a city attorney. This office requires much legal knowledge, especially of the intricate law of municipal duties and powers not found embodied in municipal charters.

Fred C. Abbott is a prominent lawyer of the city of Norfolk. He is very attentive to his profession, and has an extensive practice. This practice is of a general character, consisting of torts, claims, divorce, and equity generally.

A brother, William J. Baxter, while not in active practice, is well founded in law. He



formerly practiced in the city of Norfolk, but moved south, and has not resumed practice.

Strange to say, the son of William J. Baxter graduated at the Virginia Military Institute, an institution of a military caste, a caste that is opposed to the order and civil regulations of law.

Waddy Dey is a graduate in law. He is an excellent lawyer. As the first judge of the Domestic relations court of the city of Norfolk, he inaugurated some very beneficial means and methods of handling delinquents of immature age and defective training.

But Judge Dey gave up the law. He is now interested in something much more lucrative.

I am a graduate in law, and have been in practice for thirty five years. I have found the profession very interesting. I have only one objection to it, the exactions of minuteness and details in the trial of cases. Much pati-

cience is required, and sometimes it is worn thread bare.

So far as method is concerned, I leave most matters to the presumption that the right thing will be done if the right course is taken. But in contests this rule receives some severe shocks.

## CHAPTER XI.

### CHARACTERS.

What is character. We can say character is what we are. No doubt the good character is that which does not possess the blemish of spite, the defect of envy, the stain of evil, the deformity of greed, the black of trickery, the blood of meanness. What is observed in true character is the clear and unspotted sovereignty of the man. Here is the gentleman, the true individual, embodying the human will in the form admitting of approval, sanction, the mutual relations of individuals. Here is no defense, for there is no offense; no fury for there is no conflict. There is harmony because there is the sympathetic vibration of personal expression. What is this act, that sentiment; do they



not reveal the man. Though poverty knocks at his door, there is the gentleman, and wealth bows at his gate, there is the gentleman. Character proves as true to its nature as the faithful rose that unfolds its beauty with the dawn of spring.

In those harsh times I have mentioned, the gentleman was not so rare as in these days. Then the presence of the gentleman made relations open and safe. The same traits displayed now might lay a person open to the wiles of the cunning that is seizing society. The spirit of the gentleman was then the spirit of society. Now the spirit of society is the spirit of selfishness; the spirit that has debased the character of many, has lowered the quality of public conduct, has centralized wealth, and has created a condition of want that recognizes no standards of conduct but those of getting, and no order but that of force. In some localities, this force is organized as crime within the society organized with government.

The slave period produced men of character because it was a period of decentralization and sanction. Where centralization of industry and government exists there is disintegration of character. This centralization takes away the sanctions of relations which support character.

Men were individual during the period mentioned. To give any one of the names set forth herein, is to mention the name of a typical individual. Take the name of Benjamin Dey, and we have the name of a good example of the individual character of those times. In this character is the living personality that is the fit subject of memory. He deceived no one although engaged in the activities of production and distribution. He was a slave holder, but he took no undue advantage of slaves. In fact the slaves loved him for the manner in which he treated them. He was not so greedy as to sacrifice honesty for the sake of gain and respect for the sake of expediency.

That he envied or hated no one is evidenced

by the fact that even the Federal troops, while using his lumber plant by the employment of force, were at the same time as polite and as courteous as if the warmest of friends.

Character is expressed in the motions of the man. Take for example a character developed in later years, Benjamin F. Baxter, and we have a product of the period during his later life. For it cannot be said that he developed a case of good character, because he possessed too many of the elements that do not make good character. Of course I am mentioning a contrast of times: *O tempora () mores.*

But to return to the period just before the civil war. Joshua Baxter is another example of exemplary character. In a position to take advantage of fortune and misfortune, he rather endeavored to aid any one he could. He sought undue advantage of no one. Though he owned land and slaves, and held public office, he was not so absorbed in these as to forget his duty to others.



Another contrast is supplied in the person of Thomas R. Ballentine. He is a development of later years. While he never deceived any one, he was exacting of every one, even his relations. But, then, just debts are parts of one's earned wealth. They are just, and no one can discharge them but the debtor or the creditor; no, neither the government nor the law. While he was exacting, Thomas R. Ballentine was not greedy. He was able to make his wealth by his skill of management. But he was anxious to be wealthy, and while he did not speculate in stocks and bonds, he was a devotee of gain.

It is difficult to say what would have been the future of Thomas R. Ballentine had slavery continued. I know he was very fond of country life, and I believe he would have established a great plantation, resembling the estates of the Middle Ages.

I wish to mention another fine character; George W. Dey. Although he died wealthy,

I do not know of a single flaw in his noble character. Indeed, it was character that made him wealthy. He died leaving a wealth of character.

I want to adorn these pages with the name of a woman. Like many, her character was not widely known. That this character was beautiful is made plain by the fact that one of the most noted men of New York city tried to win her hand in marriage. But this is the test: One stormy night, in the month of March, before the slaves were freed, cries of distress broke in between the roar of a heavy sea, the fury of the wild wind and the pour of the torrential rain.

A woman, standing at a window, looking in the direction of the ocean, from Crow Island, in Currituck Sound, turned to her husband, saying:

"Captain Hatfield, there is distress on the beach; a ship is wrecked."

Her husband hastened to her side. "It can-

not be made", he replied.

She answered him in a slow, firm voice:

"It must be made."

"It shall be made," came the prompt reply.

"Joe, Dan, Bill," and other trusty slaves were called. Off they went, Captain Hatfield leading.

Elizabeth Hatfield watched them take off in the boats, then she walked over and took a seat before a fireplace, confident of the outcome.

She was half asleep when footsteps were heard. More distinct they came until they sounded like a host. A door was opened and in walked twenty six victims of a disastrous wreck.

The next day, fresh and rested, these strangers, in taking their leave, formed in a line, and as each one passed, expressed the gratitude of heart and soul for what had been done for them. When the last one passed, he placed in her lap such a weight of gold as to fall to the floor. Elizabeth Hatfield quickly sprang to her feet, exclaiming:



“No, indeed. We did what duty called.”

Character is more than gold. It will go where gold cannot; will earn honors that gold cannot earn; will carry fame which gold cannot carry; will perpetuate memories which gold cannot perpetuate.

## CHAPTER XII.

### PERSOALITIES

The character of a person lends a color to his motions. The person is known by the habits of his motion. He is devoted more to the activities of relations than to the advancement of self and to the sanctions of approval than to the gain of excessive wealth. You know that one is more popular than another, that one has a wider circle of friends than another, and is loved more as a man than as a lump of gold.

There can be little doubt that one who adopts the altruistic principle of social activity will possess more elements of praise and approval than one who adopts the egoistic principle, because this principle takes no account of

the praise or approval of others.

I am not certain that I have an egoistic type to offer. The nearest example, probably, is Thomas R. Ballentine. He is an example in so far as approval or disapproval is concerned, for he paid no attention to either. But his wealth flowed from true principles of economics, and extended no further than these principles admitted.

It is an easy matter to name types of the other principle. Joshua Baxter, not absorbed in earning wealth, developed a personality. He was of an even temper, warm in the welcome of friends, never offensive, and always ready to give credit where credit is due. Benjamin Dey is another example of this type. He was more interested in the manner that would win the respect and love of others than in winning wealth. There is William Dey, his brother, who was too ingenious to be a slave to money getting, and observed the manners of the gentleman. Benjamin D. White is very popular



because he is very genial and pleasing in his associations. He loves the people, and his jovial spirit cause them to love him. Benjamin B. Halstead is liberal in friendships; and these friendships are not for gain. They are the friendships of a manner of Benjamin B. Halstead. Fred C. Abbott, with his manner of speech, attracts and holds attention. It is a pleasure to listen to him. So with John B. Dey. His soft, Southern accent is pleasing. And I remember the same thing of William W. Dey. His manner was attractive.

If the spirit of altruism is productive of so much that is sanctionable, it is not surprising that it includes the church. William Dey, my mother's father, was a member of the Catholic church, but of the presence of one and the absence of the other house of worship, he always attended the Methodist church. This is how his family came to be of that denomination. Joshua Baxter, an uncle, also attended the Baxter's Grove Methodist church. But the

families that followed, did not hold solidly to the Methodist church. Judge Benjamin D. White is an Episcopalian. He is an active member of this church; but his wife is a Catholic. Benjamin B. Halstead is a Lutheran. J. W. Halstead is a Methodist. Fred C. Abbott is also a Methodist. Benjamin F. Baxter was an Episcopalian. George W. Dey was a Baptist. I recently noticed the account of an entertainment given by the Very Rev. and Mrs. Dobson Peacock, and that Mrs. Lieut. Earl W. Morris, daughter of Mrs. J. R. M. Robertson, was present. She must be an Episcopalian. Two daughters of Capt. Thomas F. Baxter married a Baptist preacher, the Rev. Ambrose W. Burfoot.

The church has been the means of supporting the ethical habits which have become the traditions of these relations; and as they hold to these habits, they are able to appreciate the greater social value of these habits over present conditions of sanction.

Is not sanction the better order of relations, since men live more with conscience than when they live without it, live as men considerate of what is due to each other.

I do not know that many in this circle of relations may be regarded as wanting in the qualifications of social sanction. In the correspondence of the best in human nature, there is the sympathy of what is more pleasing than painful. In the sympathy of feeling there is the likeness of those habits and morals which make each a welcome friend.

If we take this spirit of sanction, we have a distinguishing spirit of the South. There was not, before the civil war, that industrialism which observes no more sanction than a state of nature. This is why the people of the South were so conscientious in their relations, and not so bold and aggressive as the industrial North.

The economic system of the South promoted the comforts and conveniences of sanction in promoting the individual and his relations. The



economic conditions of the North promoted the individualistic, which contains the heart and soul of self seeking. In such a system the individual is nothing. His character and his personality are submerged beneath the materialism of gain.

The ethical principle of sanction is a test of the social conduct of the members of society. If we take this ethical principle as a test of social relations, we are led to ask what ethical principle supported the North in the invasion of the South. As for me, I know of no ethical principle. The only principle which one can think of is not ethical. It does not consider what is approved or disapproved; does not consult what is just or unjust; does not question what is right and what is wrong: the non-social expediency of war.

During this war, we have the ethical effects of a very interesting activity: that of Southern ladies turning their time and attention to the onerous duties thrust upon them by the war.

Instead of sitting down to bemoan the hard conditions in which a brutal war had placed them, the women of the South assumed that spirit of self denial and drudgery worthy of the Spartan era. The women of our relations are only examples of the general Southern spirit. They employed their time and talents not in caring for their own interests exclusively, but also in the interest of the Confederate cause. Though not well supplied with the materials of fabrication, yet by self denial, by the exercise of diligence, they were able to make large contributions to the comfort and welfare of the battle worn soldiers of the South. In the preparation of clothing for the worn soldiers, in supplying them with shoes, shelter, food, the women of the South were heroic. They turned their leisure and their physical strength not to the ease and comforts of home, but to the same privations and hardships as those endured by the men in the trenches.

Mary Dey, wife of Benjamin Dey, and most

of her children, my mother, my aunt, Alice, and the boys, were never idle. The household devoted much time to knitting socks, to running the spinning wheel, to making up packages, to sending these out, so that the spirit and the bodies of the men in arms might all the more contend for the cause of the South.

Another instance of this devotion to a cause is that of Sarah Baxter, grandmother. She had one son old enough to shoulder arms, and other children who made themselves useful in many ways. They not only made useful things for the soldiers, they saw that these things were delivered. She and all her children were active in the defense of the South.

The war created personalities. Thomas F. Baxter, dignified and commanding, lent to war an attraction that aided his cause. His movements, alone, attracted attention, and when in action furthered his efforts.

And Benjamin F. Baxter was a personality, created, I think, by camp life. You could



pick him from a crowd on account of his personality.

I want to mention the name of Jerome Baxter as another example of personality. In all the transactions of daily life, he never departs from the slow, steady activities of body and mind. That slow, soft accent of Southern expression made one listen for the next word, and when that had been uttered, listen just as attentively for the next expression.

Like character, personality is individual. It is the expression of the person, distinct from another. The individual expresses the peculiar manner, forms, types, of society, and lends it a peculiarity of its own.

The South distinguishes itself from the North by the warmer, softer, manner. The North is cold, more brisk and abrupt in manner, and when interests are concerned, every personal trait gives way to them. The sympathies of relations are distant; the manners of the people are informal.

A person with sympathy enough to walk out among the members of society and seek their approval, in the social channels adopted as industry, as law, as social relations, as those various ways that recognize the just activities of relations, must of necessity make himself notable and esteemed. Such was the case with Thomas J Jarvis, and, I might add, most of the relations mentioned herein.













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